

SLOVAKIAN MINERALS – THE CURRENT STAGE OF KNOWLEDGE

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From the beginning of the evolution of mineralogy, the area of Slovakia had an important position. Many minerals of historical names were described from the area of Banská Štiavnica, Smolník, Špania Dolina etc. already in the times of AGRICOLA (1556). A more complex review of the minerals of Slovakia can be found in the works of ZIPSER (1817), JONAS (1820), ZEPHAROVICH (1859, 1873, 1893), TÓTH (1882) and others.

Throughout the 19th century and in the beginning of the 20th century many new minerals were first described from Slovakian localities (evansite, euchroite, libethenite, szomolnokite etc.). The Mining Academy in Banská Štiavnica (Schemnitz, Selmezbánya) was a rather important scientific centre of mineralogy of that time, many world-famous mineralogists worked there.

During the 20th century, the mineralogical studies were concentrated at universities and in research institutes in Slovakia and in the Czech Republic. The results of an almost 100-year-old continuous research activity were summarized in the 1980's, in the three volumes of the book by KODĚRA *et al.*, (1986, 1990): *Topografická mineralógia Slovenska* (Topographical mineralogy of Slovakia). Since that time there has been an intense progress in mineralogical research, thanks to the development of laboratory methods applied in mineralogy (microprobe techniques, electron microscopy, infrared spectroscopy, chemical analytical methods etc.). That development is also proved by the intense increase of the number of mineral species described from Slovak localities: from the 430 species in 1980 (KODĚRA *et al.*, 1986) we arrived to 661 species by the end of 2002. That increase of more than 50% in average shows a more or less homogeneous distribution over the mineral classes (Table 1).

Table 1

Class	1980	2002	Increase %
Elements	17	26	34.6
Sulfides etc.	94	175	46.3
Halides	7	11	36.4
Oxides etc.	63	94	33.0
Carbonates etc.	23	32	28.1
Sulfates etc.	52	69	24.6
Phosphates etc.	41	69	40.6
Silicates	129	180	28.3
Organic minerals	4	5	20.0
Summary	430	661	35.0

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